Washington Electronic Disease Surveillance System

Definitions and User Roles

WEDSS: Washington Electronic Disease Surveillance System. The umbrella project for web-based applications designed to improve communicable disease surveillance and response as funded through grants from CDC.

PHIMS: Public Health Issue Management System. PHIMS is a secure Web-based application that local health jurisdictions will use to investigate and report Notifiable Conditions in Washington State in accordance with the Notifiable Condition regulations (WAC 246-101). PHIMS provides local public health a way to collect and manage disease investigations and report select Notifiable Conditions. PHIMS will also be used by DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section to manage Notifiable Condition cases and reports.

PHIMS User: This person typically has disease investigation responsibilities. If appropriate, users could also be staff who have data entry responsibilities, perform data analysis, assessment, management, or others interested in individual cases or summary reports. There are three user roles (Viewer, Investigator, and Supervisor). Within each role, each user has specified rights to the data by condition. User roles and rights are specified by the Data Steward.

PHRED: Public Health Reporting of Electronic Data. PHRED provides a method for sending reportable public health conditions from commercial and hospital laboratories (both in and out of state) to LHJ designated public health staff or DOH, depending on where the condition is reportable. Laboratories will send Notifiable Condition results, other reports and data to DOH as a secure, electronic file over the internet. DOH acts as a clearing house and will immediately make available over the Web the reports for the LHJ that has the legal obligation to conduct the case investigation around this particular health event. These reports will be securely stored in the DOH file server awaiting retrieval by local public health staff via the PHRED web site.

PHRED User: This person typically receives reports of reportable conditions from a laboratory and then does the necessary investigation depending on the condition reported. Actions could include starting a disease investigation or forwarding the report to a disease investigator. There are two user roles; View Data and View/Acknowledge/Export. The reports that PHRED will handle for the LHJs are the same reports that LHJs currently receive via fax, phone and mail. There are two LHJ user rights categories; Communicable Diseases and STD health conditions. User roles and rights are specified by the Data Steward.

Data Steward (PHIMS & PHRED) Role: The Data Steward is the primary LHJ point-of-contact for account maintenance, training and deployment of PHIMS and PHRED. This role is primarily a business role rather than a technical role. The person filling this role may or may not have decision making authority within LHJ as appropriate and should operate within existing LHJ business practices.

- Speaks for the LHJ regarding the PHIMS & PHRED applications and acts as the primary point-of-contact
- Specifies and provides the WEDSS Customer Support Center (CSC) with the names, roles and condition rights of PHIMS and PHRED users using the WEDSS Account Maintenance Form
- Requests changes in roles or privileges for existing users, including the deletion of users from the system using the WEDSS Account Maintenance Form
- Facilitates ordering and activating digital certificates for each user
- Coordinates and communicates with WEDSS CSC regarding training and deployment activities at their location

SECURES: Secure Electronic Communication, Urgent Response and Exchange System. This web-based application is designed to provide multiple methods for DOH to send notification of Health Alert Network (HAN) messages to LHJs and for LHJs to send notification of HAN messages to their public health partners. Notification recipients can receive their notifications via one or more telephone numbers, email addresses, and alpha-numeric pagers. The system instructs the recipient to log into the secure Web-site to read the details of the message.

SECURES User: SECURES is "role based" meaning that messages are sent to "roles" (e.g. LHJ Administrator, Health Officer, etc.). When individuals are "enrolled" in SECURES as a user, they are assigned a role(s) based on LHJ business requirements. Each role can be filled by multiple individuals and each individual can fill numerous roles if desired by the agency. Each user is required to enter and maintain their own contact information and desired method(s) to receive notifications. Messages are automatically de-duplicated so recipients only receive one alert message regardless of the number of roles they are in. Guidelines for best practices and roles will be developed by the SECURES Users Group.

SECURES Local SysAdmin Role: The Local SysAdmin is the primary LHJ point-of-contact for user account maintenance and document library support. This role is also the LHJs SECURES user's first line of support. This role encompasses both business practices (i.e., how your LHJ will use the application) as well as basic technical use of the application. The person filling this role may or may not have decision making authority within LHJ as appropriate and should operate within existing LHJ business practices.

- Speaks for the LHJ regarding the SECURES application and acts as the primary point-of-contact

- Creates and maintains user accounts and roles for their jurisdiction according to established protocols
- Maintains their jurisdiction's folders within the system Document Library according to established protocols
- Assigns alerting privileges to their jurisdiction's users according to established protocols
- Attends a 2-day System Administration training

WEDSS Customer Support Center (help desk) Role:
- Provides orientation for Data Stewards and SECURES Local SysAdmins
- Provides Data Stewards with Transact Washington Service Codes
- Creates and maintains PHIMS & PHRED user accounts by applying roles and privileges requested by Data Stewards
- Tracks requests, and notifies the requesting Data Steward when the PHIMS & PHRED user account transaction is completed
- Sends quarterly PHIMS & PHRED account management reports to the Data Steward
- Sends semi-annual PHIMS & PHRED account management reports to the LHJ Business Authority

Contact Information

WEDSS Help Desk: Wedss.support@doh.wa.gov   1-877-889-3377
- General WEDSS application questions
- Application deployment and training questions
- Specific questions about processes to use the applications
- Configure user access to applications

WEDSS User Coordinator: Chris Halsell, chris.halsell@doh.wa.gov, 360-236-4471
- LHJ liaison
- Questions about LHJ roles
- Application deployment and training questions
- User Group facilitator

WEDSS Program Director: Jim O. White, jim.o.white@doh.wa.gov, 360-236-4360

Documents with additional details of WEDSS projects and LHJ roles are available from the WEDSS Help Desk.